## For Immediate Release

March 24, 2003

## GOVERNOR MUSGROVE: ENGINEERS PLAY KEY ROLE IN STATE'S GROWTH

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(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove spoke today at the National Association of County Engineers Annual Meeting in Biloxi, saying county engineers play a key role in economic development. The state has many advantages and a wealth of resources to offer business and industry, Musgrove said, and is developing its infrastructure in order to utilize those assets.

"We're working to build good communities on a foundation of good jobs and good schools, and the role of engineers in that work is vital," explained Musgrove.

Musgrove said a strong infrastructure is a key component in attracting industry to the state. He referenced the role engineers have played in developing new roads and water systems for the Nissan facility as an example.

"Mississippi is growing faster than ever, and we want to keep that momentum going in building strong communities that provide a higher quality of life for our citizens," commented Musgrove.

Mississippi was listed by "Site Selection" magazine last year as one of the top ten states for new and expanded facilities. In September 2001, the state was named one of the top ten states for small business survival. Under Musgrove's leadership, more than 2,000 new and expanded facilities have opened, creating more than 50,000 jobs and a total business investment of over \$14 billion.